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Letter dated 17 August 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 31 May to 30 June 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 31 May to 30 June 2004.

2. As at 30 June 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 18,094, including 3,102 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change in the status of partner or non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm but fragile. While tensions are low between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs, the potential for a return of province-wide violence is still present.

5. During the month, the number of ethnically motivated incidents was relatively low, with nine reported incidents; the most significant was the murder of a young Kosovo Serb who was killed by gunfire in Gracanica on 5 June 2004.

6. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained low throughout the month.

7. There were 43 reported incidents related to drugs, weapons and smuggling activity in June 2004. This represents a 5 per cent increase from the previous month. Drugs and smuggling-related events are increasing while illegal weapons finds are decreasing.

8. KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre, avoid ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites. KFOR remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Forces

9. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during June 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,995 active members including 151 minorities, of which 40 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,838 members, of which 17 are minorities.

11. On 29 June, a KPC-wide roll call was conducted and showed that the percentage of absence without permission had decreased, but not significantly. The results also showed that the number of individuals on leave, sick or absent for other reasons had increased to 25 per cent because of the annual leave period.

Political situation

12. The recent election of Boris Tadic as the new President of Serbia may lead to a softening of attitude, owing to his pro-Western stance, and this may have a significant impact on the future of Kosovo.

Conclusion

13. The overall situation within Kosovo continues to gradually improve but the situation remains unstable and the potential exists for an increase in criminal and inter-ethnic violence throughout the summer. High levels of smuggling activity are expected to continue throughout the summer months and KFOR continues its efforts to prevent these activities.